

**RUS**—Rural Utilities Service, and for the purposes of this subpart, shall include the Rural Telephone Bank. For the purposes of RTB borrowers, as used in this subpart, RUS means RTB and Administrator means Governor.

**State**—Each of the 50 States of the United States, the District of Columbia, and territories and possessions of the United States which are authorized to receive loans, loan guarantees, or grants from RUS.

[58 FR 32437, June 10, 1993, as amended at 59 FR 66440, Dec. 27, 1994; 65 FR 76916, Dec. 8, 2000; 69 FR 23642, Apr. 30, 2004]

#### **§1792.103 Seismic design and construction standards for new buildings.**

(a) In the design and construction of federally assisted buildings, the borrowers and grant recipients must utilize the seismic provisions of the most recent edition of those standards and practices that are substantially equivalent to or exceed the seismic safety level in the 1994, 1997, or 2000 editions of the NEHRP Recommended Provisions for the Development of Seismic Regulation for New Buildings.

(b) Each of the following model codes or standards provides a level of seismic safety substantially equivalent to that provided by the 1994 or 1997 NEHRP Recommended Provisions and are appropriate for federally assisted new building construction:

(1) 1997 International Conference of Building Officials (ICBO) Uniform Building Code. Copies of the book or CD-ROM are available from the International Conference of Building Officials, 5360 Workman Mill Road, Whittier, CA 90601-2298, phone: 1-800-284-4406, fax: 1-888-329-4226.

(2) 1995 or 1998 American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) 7, *Minimum Design Loads for Buildings and Other Structures*. Copies are available from the American Society of Civil Engineers, Publications Marketing Department, 1801 Alexander Bell Drive, Reston, VA 20191-4400, e-mail: [marketing@asce.org](mailto:marketing@asce.org), fax: 1-703-295-6211.

(3) 2000 International Code Council (ICC) *International Building Code*. Copies of the book or CD-ROM are available from the International Conference of Building Officials, 5360 Workman

Mill Road, Whittier, CA 90601-2298, phone: 1-800-284-4406, fax: 1-888-329-4226.

(c) The NEHRP Recommended Provisions for the Development of Seismic Regulations for New Buildings is available from the Office of Earthquakes and Natural Hazards, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C Street, SW., Washington, DC 20472.

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#### **§1792.104 Seismic acknowledgments.**

For each applicable building, borrowers and grant recipients must provide RUS a written acknowledgment from a registered architect or engineer responsible for the building design stating that seismic provisions pursuant to §1792.103 of this subpart will be used in the design of the building.

(a) For projects in which plans and specifications are required to be submitted to RUS, this acknowledgment shall be on the title page of the drawings included with the final plans and specifications. This acknowledgment will include the identification and date of the model code or standard that is used in the seismic design of the building project. The plans and specifications must be dated, signed, and sealed by the registered architect or engineer.

(b) For projects in which plans and specifications are not submitted, this acknowledgment shall be in the form of a statement from the architect or engineer responsible for the building design. The statement shall identify the model code or standard identified that is used in the seismic design of the building or buildings and, shall be dated and signed.

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## **PART 1794—ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

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AUTHORITY: 7 U.S.C. 6941 *et seq.*, 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*; 40 CFR Parts 1500–1508.

SOURCE: 63 FR 68655, Dec. 11, 1998, unless otherwise noted.

### Subpart A—General

#### § 1794.1 Purpose.

(a) This part contains the policies and procedures of the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) for implementing the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321–4346); the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500 through 1508) and certain related Federal environmental laws, statutes, regulations, and Executive Orders (EO) that apply to RUS programs and administrative actions.

(b) The policies and procedures contained in this part are intended to help RUS officials make decisions that are based on an understanding of environmental consequences, and take actions that protect, restore, and enhance the environment. In assessing the potential environmental impacts of its actions, RUS will consult early with appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies and other organizations to provide decision-makers with information on the issues that are truly significant to the action in question.

#### § 1794.2 Authority.

(a) This part derives its authority from and is intended to be compliant with NEPA, CEQ Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA, and other RUS regulations.